

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00051 090953Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 4762

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

USINFO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

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NAIROBI FOR EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJ: TIMES OF ZAMBIA SEES GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM FOR GENEVA

TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL JANUARY 9 SEES CURRENT FRONTLINE SUMMIT
AT LUSAKA AS TAKING PLACE "AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF RISING OPTIMISM
THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE SALVAGED FROM GENEVA WHICH IS THE OTHER
RHODESIAN 'WAR FRONT.' STATEMENTS MADE BY MR. IVOR RICHARD
DURING HIS SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHUTTLE AS WELL AS STATEMENTS
BY LEADERS HE HAS MET GIVE CREDENCE TO A SENSE OF OPTIMISM.

"IT CAN BE HOPED THAT THE FRONTLINE LEADERS AND THE RHODESIAN
NATIONALISTS WHO ARE ATTENDING THE LUSAKA SUMMIT WILL DECIDE
IN FAVOR OF RECONVENING GENEVA TO AVOID THE OBVIOUS GHASTLY
ALTERNATIVES. A LOT OF GROUND WORK WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BETWEEN
NOW AND THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS IF ANOTHER DEBACLE IS TO BE
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00051 090953Z

AVOIDED."

EDITORIAL CAUTIONS THAT, "THE NATIONALISTS MUST ADOPT A NEW
'COLLECTIVE' SPIRIT WHICH TRANSCENDS PARTISAN INTERESTS AND
AGREE TO A STRUCTURE OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOR ZIMBABWE." THEY
WILL BE CONDEMNING THEIR FOLLOWERS AT HOME TO MORE SUFFERING
IF THEY GO TO GENEVA AND START TALKING WITH DISCORDANT VOICES

ON THE SHAPE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE FRONTLINE LEADERS CAN HELP TO IN WORKING OUT THE STRUCTURE, BUT THE ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS "MUST DO ALL OF THE DONKEY WORK THEMSELVES SO THAT TOMORROW NONE OF THEM TURNS AROUND TO SAY ANY SOLUTION REACHED WAS 'IMPOSED' ON THEM." IF ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS CAN AGREE ON THE STRUCTURE FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT, THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN WILL THEN HAVE A PLAN REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL SHADES OF OPINION TO PUT BEFORE SMITH. "THE REBEL LEADER SHOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO ACCEPT SUCH A PLAN AS IT WILL OBVIOUSLY CONTAIN NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS FOR ALL RHODESIANS."

FOR ITS PART, "BRITAIN MUST SEE REALITY AND START PREPARING FOR A SUPREME ROLE AS AN EFFECTIVE ARBITER DURING AN INTERIM ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT. FOR HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO VACILATE IN THE FACE OF INCREASING WHITE DISCONTENT AGAINST SMITH, AS SHOWN BY THE SALISBURY DEMONSTRATION LED BY MR. KEN MEW ON FRIDAY, WILL BE LETTING HUMANITY DOWN." LOW

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